

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-24 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 10, and 17 have been amended, and claim 24 has been added as new as shown on pages 2 to 5 of this submission. Because claim 2 was cancelled in preceding prosecution, it is believed that no fees are due for the additional claim 24.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein. Specifically, the claims as amended are believed to be allowable over the references cited in the Final Office Action dated March 22, 2007. In particular, Singh, *et al.* (US 6,650,422), Singh, *et al.* (US 6,561,706), and Arita (US 6,905,949), alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest selectively satisfying a critical dimension as a result of a deviation presented during the non-lithographic shrink technique as recited in the claims. Particularly, the subject matter as claimed can achieve a critical dimension that existed on the photoresist before the non-lithographic shrink technique was performed by etching away gate lines that expanded during the shrink technique. For example, thermal reflow, as one technique, causes the gate line material to soften and “flow” thereby mitigating line-edge roughness. This can also cause the line to become wider than before. The trim etch component can subsequently be used to etch away the overage to satisfy the original dimension of the gate line. The cited references do not disclose or suggest these features, alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [AMDP981US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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